DAILY TOVERI'S BULLETIN

City Destroyed by Flames

Damage Estimated at Thirty Million. --- Fire Under Control

The business district of Astoria burned up this morning. All of forty blocks of the business section of the city have been consumed by the conflagration.

The fire started about 2 o'clock this morning in the basement of Thiel's pool hall, which was near the Bee Hive department store, on Twelfth and Commercial streets. It is not known as yet how the fire originated. The fire spread under the streets, which in this section of the city were built on pilings. The fire broke up above the surface in three or four different parts of the city. When once above the surface the fire spread rapidly in the face of a strong wind. The wooden buildings caught fire quickly and flamed up like tinder, spreading the fire from block to block in a few moments.

The city is now a smouldering heap of ruins from Exchange Street to the waterfront and from Seventh Street to Seventeenth Street. In this area all the buildings were burned except the Spexarth Building, Sixth and Commercial Sts., and the Lower Columbia Creamery plant, Ninth and Duane Sts., which being fireproof buildings were not totally destroyed.

The devastated area contained over fifty large buildings such as hotels, large department stores, restaurants, office buildings, etc. which are completely burned to the ground. The city's four banks are a heap of ashes. About fourty garages, filled with new and used automobiles were consumed by the angry flames.

The total damage done by the conflagaration will amount to over 30 million dollars.

The city fire department could not check the flames as they quickly spread from building to building. A call for help was sent to Portland. A fire boat from Portland arrived at four o'clock. More fire apparatus arrived from Portland on the 5:15 train. Three fire-trucks also arrived in good time from Portland. By the joint efforts of the two fire departments the conflagration has now been checked.

Several persons killed

It is impossible to say at this time how many persons have been killed in the fire, as reports concerning the fatalities are conflicting and unreliable. Among the dead are reported to be Mr. Norris Staples, president of the Bank of Commerce, who died from heart failure, a sailor from the Bark Oneonta was drowned at the O. W. R. & N. docks as the roof of a burning building fell on him.

Relief is provided

Relief headquarters have been opened at the Y. M. C. A. building. The Seaside Hotel at Seaside has been opened and is offering shelter for those who lost their homes. A free bus leaves the Y. building and all those wishing to go to Seaside are requested to call at the Y.

Mayor Bremner has called a general mass meeting of the business men and the city officials, to meet at the City Hall at two o'clock this afternoon. Relief measures will be discussed.

DECISIONS OF MASS MEETING.

Nobody allowed on burned area. Hundred men assigned on guard duty.

All business men will meet tomorrow morning at nine o'clock at the City Hall.